

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for a bowling ball with a hole, comprising:
a base mountable to the hole, wherein said base includes ~~a~~ an integral coupling portion and an outer diameter; and
a sleeve with an integral coupling portion and a first outer diameter, wherein said sleeve coupling portion is matingly engaged to said base coupling portion and said sleeve first outer diameter is substantially equal to said base outer diameter.
2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said base coupling portion is threaded, and said sleeve coupling portion is threaded and rotatably engages said base coupling portion.
3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2 comprising:
means for preventing rotation of said sleeve relative to said base when said sleeve coupling portion is engaged to said base coupling portion.
4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein said base includes a base locking portion, said sleeve includes a sleeve locking portion, and comprising a locking member which is engaged with said base locking portion and said sleeve locking portion to selectively prevent the base and sleeve from de-coupling.
5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said locking member is threaded.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein one of said sleeve locking portion and said base locking portion are threaded to receive said locking member.
7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said locking member is plastic.
8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said locking member is disposed entirely within said base locking portion and said sleeve locking portion.
9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said base and said sleeve are plastic.
10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said base is chemically bonded to the hole.
11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said sleeve is comprised of materials resistant to chemical bonding.
12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said sleeve includes a receptacle for a torque application tool.
13. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said sleeve includes a second outer diameter different from said first outer diameter, wherein one of said first diameter and said second diameter is larger than the other of said first diameter and said second diameter.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said base has a base height and said sleeve has a sleeve height, and said base height is substantially less than said sleeve height.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said sleeve includes an alignment indicator, wherein said alignment indicator indicates the alignment of said base locking portion with said sleeve locking portion.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said sleeve includes a cavity sized for inserting a digit.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said cavity is a cylindrical ellipse.

18. (Currently amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a bowling ball with a digit hole;

a base mounted within said hole, wherein said base includes a an integral coupling portion; and

a sleeve with a an integral coupling portion, wherein said sleeve has a height and said sleeve coupling portion has a different height, and wherein said sleeve coupling portion is matingly engaged to said base coupling portion.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein said base coupling portion is threaded, and said sleeve coupling portion is threaded and rotatably engages said base coupling portion.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein said base includes a base locking portion, said sleeve includes a sleeve locking portion, and further comprising a locking member which is engaged with said base locking portion and said sleeve locking portion.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein said base, said sleeve and said locking member are plastic.

22. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein said sleeve includes a first and a different second outer diameter, wherein one of said first diameter and said second diameter is larger than the other of said first diameter and said second diameter.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein said sleeve includes an alignment indicator, wherein said alignment indicator indicates the alignment of said base locking portion with said sleeve locking portion.

24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein said bowling ball includes an alignment indicator that coordinates with said sleeve alignment indicator.

25. (Currently amended) A method for attaching a sleeve insert to a bowling ball hole, comprising the steps of:

providing a bowling ball with at least one digit hole;

attaching a base portion inside the hole, wherein the base portion has ~~a~~an integral coupling portion;

engaging a sleeve portion within the hole to the base portion, wherein the sleeve portion has a first diameter and ~~a~~an integral coupling portion, and said engaging is accomplished by the base coupling portion meshing with the sleeve coupling portion; and,

preventing the sleeve portion from rotating once engaged with the base portion.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein there is sufficient tolerance between the sleeve portion and the base portion and sufficient tolerance between the sleeve portion and the digit hole to allow manual tightening of the sleeve portion to the base portion.

27. (Currently amended) The method of claim 26, wherein the sleeve portion has a second diameter different from the first diameter and one of said first diameter and said second diameter is larger than the other of said first diameter and said second diameter, and wherein the sleeve coupling portion is threaded, and the base coupling portion is threaded.

28. (Original) The method of claim 27 further comprising the step of:
sizing the hole to snugly engage at least the larger of the first and second sleeve diameters.

29. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein said preventing is accomplished using a set screw that extends between said base and said sleeve.

30. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein said attaching is accomplished using glue.

31. (Original) The method of claim 25 further comprising the step of:
torquing the sleeve portion to the base portion.

32. (Currently amended) An apparatus for a bowling ball with a hole, comprising:
a base mountable to the hole, wherein said base includes ~~a~~an integral threaded portion, a base locking portion and an outer diameter;

a sleeve with ~~a~~an integral threaded portion, a cavity, a first outer diameter, a second outer diameter and a sleeve locking portion, wherein said sleeve threaded portion is rotatably engaged to said base threaded portion, said sleeve first outer diameter is substantially equal to said base outer diameter and said cavity is a cylindrical ellipse; and

a locking member which is threaded and engaged with said base locking portion and further engaged with said sleeve locking portion, wherein said locking member prevents relative rotation between said base and said sleeve.

33. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~33~~32, wherein said base, said sleeve and said locking member are plastic.